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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR)

REPORT

SUBJECT Port of Ventspils

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. [] ship approached Ventspils through the swept channel 68b because the mine chart still indicated a mined zone outside the port; however [] there was no longer any mined area, and ships were seen heading for Ventspils on the direct course along the coast rather than on the prescribed course in the swept channel. Leading buoy Number 5 shown on the chart had been removed from its position at N 57-28, E 21-21.
2. Berths for merchant vessels were on the northern bank of the river and on the eastern bank upstream from the bend. Upstream from the small central wooden quay there was an embankment on the northern bank of the river, and beyond it was a wooden landing quay at which the ship was forced to wait until a berth at the loading pier was available. Two fish canneries and a recently built water tower, 40 meters high, were located close to the landing quay.
3. [] ship, which drew 19 feet, went aground at the loading quay as the water was only six meters deep there. The loading quay was a stone wall 400 meters long. The pilot said that this quay was scheduled to be expanded as far as the harbor mole by the end of 1954. Steadily increasing freight turnover was given as the reason for the expansion. There were five three-ton electrical cranes and double railroad tracks on the loading quay. Since the storage sheds were about 100 meters distant from the quay, a rail shuttle service was maintained for transporting freight from the quay to the sheds and vice versa. [] ship unloaded its unfrozen meat into refrigerator cars, but operations had to be interrupted on 24 and 25 March as no cars were available. Colza cakes and oil cakes appeared to be the principal cargo loaded at the loading quay.
4. There was another loading quay a little upriver from the point at which the river turns south after passing the Winter Harbor. A total of seven cranes was

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on this quay, including three small cranes, three electric cranes of American origin, and a slewing turret crane.

5.

6.

no coal depot in Ventspils. Bunkering coal was brought alongside in lighters. tugboat TAIFUN, a powerful tug with a high bridge and a mainmast, a brown smokestack with a red band with hammer and sickle emblem, and a black top, served as harbor tugboat in Ventspils. It had two lifeboats and a twin-pole mast on the fantail, two powerful searchlights about one meter in diameter on the compass deck, and two fire monitors.

7. Soviet lighter 176 was berthed at the loading quay. It had probably unloaded cargo and was waiting for a seagoing tugboat. A ferry which plies between the loading quay and the opposite river bank was also berthed close to the loading quay. On the opposite river bank was a landing stage, near the road running to the town. A rather large radio station with a radio mast was located along this road. The station was surrounded by a high board fence.

8. The following ships were observed entering or leaving Ventspils harbor during the period from 22 to 26 March 1954:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Gross Tonnage</u>	<u>Nationality</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
22 March	MS SERGO	7,600	USSR	Left in ballast
23 March	SS BELOOSTROV	2,916	USSR	Left with cargo
24 March	SS SYGULDA	1,800	USSR	Put in and tied up to the upriver loading quay
24 March	SS TARTU	1,450	USSR	Took on colza and oil cakes at upriver loading quay
24 March	SS NIVA	1,445	USSR	Left with oil cake cargo
24 March	SS VALDAY	2,400	USSR	Berthed at loading quay to take on cargo

24 March	SS CHOLYM	2,735	USSR	Put in and left harbor again on 25 March
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26 March	SS SEVAN	2,154	USSR	Berthed at loading quay to take on colza and oil cakes
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<u>Date</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Gross Tonnage</u>	<u>Nationality</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
26 March	SS AUSEKLIS	1,400	USSR	Put in

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Legend to the Sketch of Ventspils Harbor:

- 1) Northern mole.
- 2) Southern mole.
- 3) New water tower, about 40 meters high.
- 4) Two new fish canneries.
- 5) Quay for ships waiting to load or unload.
- 6) Berth of the Soviet ships SOCHI and NIVA until 24 March.
- 7)
- 8) Berth of Soviet lighter 176.
- 9) Loading quay, about 400 meters long.
- 10) Ferry.
- 11) Berths of Soviet military vessels.
- 12) Military building with radio station.
- 13) Winter Harbor.
- 14) Berth of Soviet merchant ship SYGULDA, later of the CHULYA.
- 15) Berth of the TARTU.
- 16)
- 17)
- 18) Town of Ventspils.
- 19) Road to town.

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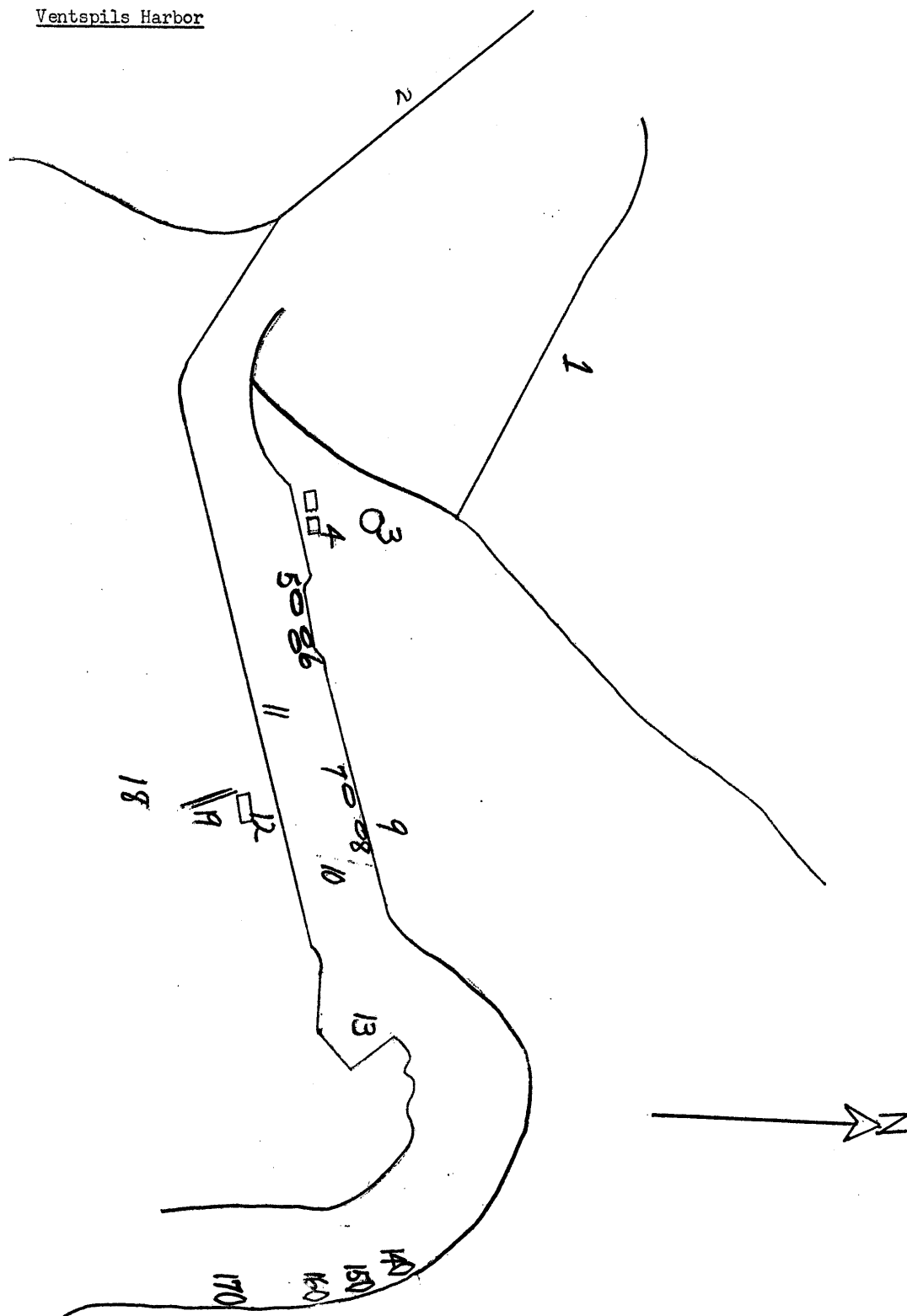
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Ventspils Harbor



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